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DRESSING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CELEBS

ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD BABY BOOM MEANS PREDICTING THE STYLES OF MINI- JESSICA SIMPSON, AMONG OTHERS PAGE 22

VANCOUVER metro®

Thursday, March 22, 2012

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RCMP DEAL REACHED

PAGE 3

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews shakes hands with Mounties in Surrey on Wednesday after a new 20-year RCMP contract was signed between the federal government and B.C. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Graduation in jeopardy?

Angry B.C. teachers ready to vote on an illegal strike PAGE 4

Square could get new name

If you're in Discovery Square, you soon could find yourself in Art Phillips Square PAGE 6

Staying stylish in Seville

Famous comedic opera being staged in Vancouver PAGE 17

Still too early to plant?

Resist the urge, or you could damage your soil and grass PAGE 26

Daniel Sedin hurt in loss

Blackhawks beat Canucks in game that sees sniper taken off ice PAGE 30

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Policy

Police board hears proposed guidelines for sex-trade workers

The Vancouver Police Board has heard a presentation on new guidelines designed to help improve the safety and well-being of sex-trade workers.

The guidelines state that all cases of violence or abuse of sex workers must be taken seriously, and that as soon as a worker makes an allegation, an officer must be assigned to her case and ask whether she is connected to support services.

The board will spend the next month or more consulting with stakeholders before deciding whether to adopt the proposed policy.

Insp. Cita Airth, head of the Vancouver Police Department's special investigation section and co-author of the guidelines, called her report an "affirmation" of current police practices.

"Whenever we submit a new draft policy to the police board, it's understandable that there's an assumption that police have not made changes prior to pending outcome of policy discussions with the board, but many times changes in practice have already occurred and are simply awaiting board approval," Airth said. "That is partially the case in this instance."

She thanked the community groups that helped her write the report: Wish, Pivot, the BC Coalition of Experiential Communities, Peers and Pace — and credited them with helping police build relationships with vulnerable women working in the sex trade.

KATE WEBB/METRO

B.C. solicitor general Shirley Bond and federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews sign a new 20-year contract for RCMP policing in the province on Wednesday in Surrey. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Mounties re-up for two more decades

Policing. New contract has two-year opt-out clause and mandatory five-year review

A new 20-year RCMP contract signed Wednesday by the B.C. and federal governments is more about controlling costs than police accountability, says an SFU criminologist.

Rob Gordon, a former police officer who has long advocated for a separate B.C. provincial force, says the new deal is pretty much the same as the one that's expiring at the end of the month.

"It's got nothing to do with police effectiveness or police priorities but everything to do with controlling the money," he said.

But solicitor general Shirley Bond stresses the new contract will give municipalities more say in how the RCMP are run in the province.

"This contract gives us new management and oversight ability that will allow us to contain costs and take a more direct role in determining what police services will look like in our province," Bond said at a signing ceremony with federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews at the Surrey RCMP detachment.

Under the new deal, a contract-management committee comprising 10 municipal representatives will have more input on decisions regarding costs, policing quality and delivery, as well as on the hiring of senior management positions by the RCMP. Municipalities will have more influence and control, but they will pay a little more.

B.C. will be paying another $5.7 million a year on top of the $310 million it already pays. Municipalities with over 15,000 residents will have to shell out an extra $2.35 million, and smaller towns will together pay $320,000 more in the coming year.

However, Ottawa agreed to chip in more for integrated policing teams such as the gang task force and IHIT in recognition of B.C's gangs and gun problem.

The overall cost-sharing ratio for normal policing remains unchanged.

Gordon says the deal is still problematic "if you cut through the rhetoric."

"There's no change in accountability where it counts," he said. "If you have local or provincial control, you can better determine how the dollars are spent. I don't think it's cost-effective to have a contractor whose head office is in Ottawa. It makes no sense."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Farmer. Park board sues over alleged goat sale

The Vancouver Park Board is suing Langley hobby farmer Trevor French for $12,000 for allegedly selling goats at auction that he had agreed to care for humanely the rest of their lives.

The notice of claim, filed two weeks ago, alleges French allowed four sheep to be killed by predators and sold 16 goats to be slaughtered without the park board's permission.

Board chair Constance Barnes says the former Stanley Park petting-zoo animals deserved better.

"We've heard loud and clear that this is a breach of contract and out of respect to the people that have done a really fabulous job — and we commend the folks that have adopted the other animals — this has just put a really bad taste in the mouths of many people," Barnes said.

The lawsuit calls French's conduct "calculated, harsh, reprehensible and malicious," and claims he acted deliberately for profit.

Barnes added that the lone silver lining is one goat, Tryka, survived French's farm and has been reunited with some of her old friends from the Stanley Park Farmyard at a loving home in Chilliwack.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Assistance. Council expected to bank on loans for those who can't pay rent

Low-income families at risk of losing their home will soon get a reprieve as the City of Vancouver is set to adopt a rent bank.

Council is expected to approve a grant for $49,600 a year (for three years) for the administration of a Vancouver rent bank next week.

Once up and running, the bank will be able to provide small emergency loans to help people with temporary financial difficulty pay rent.

The model is based on successful rent banks already operating in Surrey, Prince George, Victoria and the entire province of Ontario.

"This helps low-income families right on the cusp of losing their homes," said Coun. Kerry Jang. "It makes more sense to loan a family $800, and have them pay it back, than make them lose their homes, their possessions and have them end up in a shelter that costs us $2,500 a month per person."

Vancouver West-End MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert started lobbying for a rent bank in Vancouver and says he's been horrified by stories of people's suffering.

"This is a homeless-prevention tool. It's much kinder and cheaper to keep people in their homes," he said. "It's horrifying when you hear about a woman who couldn't pay her rent one month because of a sickness and she ends up living in a van for two years."

A study conducted by the University of British Columbia will track the effectiveness of the rent bank. If the report shows that banks are a success, Chandra Herbert hopes the provincial government will look at implementing them provincewide in the same way Ontario has done.

Council will vote on the grants Tuesday.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

1 NEWS

Mobile news

A recent study reveals Canadians are more willing than Americans to sift through promotional emails in exchange for cut-rate deals. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Ramsay skewers ex-resto

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay served his former Montreal restaurant with a $2.7-million lawsuit Wednesday. For more about the chef known not only for his delicatessens but also for his feisty demeanour, go to metronews.ca/video

Fed-up B.C. teachers set to vote on illegal strike

Consequences. Involvement in graduation ceremonies uncertain if illegal strike goes ahead

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

B.C. teachers plan to hold a provincewide vote in April on whether to stage an illegal strike in defiance of B.C. Liberals' back-to-work legislation.

BC Teachers' Federation president Susan Lambert said their decision follows a decade of cuts to public education.

"This all began with Christy Clark as minister of education in 2001 and 2002, when this government starved itself of revenue by implementing an across-the-board income-tax cut, personal and corporate, of 25 per cent," she said, "and that starving (of) government revenues meant a decade of assaulting public-sector service levels, and that includes public education."

She said teachers "will have to think about" what to do about the more than $1 million in fines they could incur if they decide to walk out of classrooms again.

Teachers also plan to mount a legal challenge of Bill 22, "with the ultimate goal of having the so-called Education Improvement Act repealed," but Lambert urged the province to do it voluntarily.

"Government can rethink this legislation," she said. "Government can take the higher ground. Government has the choice, it has the power and it has the right.... We believe this bill has all the hallmarks, all the characteristics of previous bills that have been found illegal by the United Nations, illegal by the Supreme Court."

Almost 700 BCTF delegates approved the plan during the final day of their annual general meeting Tuesday, but kept it secret until Wednesday.

The vote will be held April 17 and 18. If the results favour an illegal strike, Lambert said BCTF executives will decide on its length and timing.

As part of the plan, teachers will also consider withdrawing all voluntary extra-curricular activities, a move that has so far been avoided in the last seven months of job action.

Lambert said graduating high school students can expect to get the grades they need for post-secondary institutions.

BCTF president Susan Lambert in Vancouver Wednesday. KATE WEBB/METRO

Reform coming to B.C.'s energy sector: Oliver

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Blessed with natural resources and a gateway to the lucrative Chinese market, Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver says B.C. is "crucial" to Canada's prosperity.

Oliver was in the Lower Mainland Wednesday during a swing through Western Canada where he stressed the need to streamline the framework that keeps some projects from getting off the ground for up to 10 years.

"Some power projects have taken a really long time, far longer than really necessary," Oliver said.

Wasted time

"Some power projects have taken a really long time, far longer than really necessary."
Joe Oliver, Natural Resources Minister

"B.C. is blessed with enormous natural resources that can really benefit our population. But to do that, we need to make sure our regulatory system is efficient."

Reform is coming within months, Oliver said.

"We're talking months, not years. We're trying to expedite the process, so we need to expedite ourselves."

While Oliver is unable to speak to the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project, currently going through a lengthy public-hearing process, many of his complaints seemed to touch on the proceedings.

"We don't need 1,000 people representing the same few organizations reading from the same script," he said.

"It adds nothing. We need to make sure reviews are done in a proper way without the redundancies."

He stressed the reforms would not weaken environmental assessments.

Once regulations are streamlined, Oliver sees Canada as a "superpower" in mining and new energy.

Tens of thousands of jobs could be created in British Columbia alone, he said.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Family plea

Appeal for help in man's death

The family of a Vanderhoof man who was killed in northern B.C. is appealing for information. Fribjon Bjornso, 28, disappeared in January. Evidence of his remains, but no body, were found in Fort St James. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sentence

No jail for woman who scalded niece

A First Nations woman who pleaded guilty to assaulting her three-year-old niece by shaking her violently and dunking her in hot water won't go to jail. The judge said jail would not be in the interest of justice. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Union

Pact secures jobs for liquor workers

The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union says a deal it signed with the province will provide job security for about 600 members in Liquor Distribution Branch warehouses and wholesale customer centres. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bonnington range

Heli-skier killed in avalanche

A man is dead and another person has life-threatening injuries after an avalanche struck a group of heli-skiers in a mountain range in southeast B.C. Wednesday. It is the ninth avalanche-related fatality this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coquihalla

Snow nears record levels on highway

The latest dump of snow that's forced the closure of the Coquihalla Highway has pushed snowfall amounts at the highway summit to near-record levels. A total of 40 centimetres of snow fell in the area over the last 24 hours. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surrey

Mountie cleared in fatal shooting

An investigation into a fatal shooting by a Mountie has concluded no criminal offence was committed. Vancouver police say a Mountie at the scene last March for a domestic disturbance shot a man who was pointing a firearm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pipeline project

CCPA: Enbridge overstated jobs

A new study published Wednesday says Enbridge has vastly overstated the number of jobs that will be created by the Northern Gateway Pipeline project. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives says the project will create 1,850 construction jobs per year for three years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance committee

City to vote on 99 new taxi licences

A finance committee will vote next Tuesday on whether to expand Vancouver's taxi population with 99 new taxi licences.

The new issues would replace the 65 temporary licences added as part of a pilot project last year.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

Grand re-opening

Vancouver helps with ANZA club facelift

A Mouth Pleasant venue named the ANZA Club will hold a grand reopening Thursday night, after a $120,000 grant from the city allowed renovations. It had not been significantly renovated since the 1970s.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

Raising funds

Heritage train crippled by copper thieves

Repeated thefts of copper from West Coast Railway have left a heritage train inoperable. The non-profit is now looking to raise funds for repairs, which are estimated at thousands of dollars.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

Kamloops

Son in custody in father's homicide

A family member of a man who was killed in his Kamloops home Tuesday say he's shocked at the way his life ended. Dave Dhaliwal says the victim of the alleged homicide is his father-in-law, Harsewak Singh Toor. The victim's son is in custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Destroyed

Gas station fire in Chilliwack

A gasoline-fuelled fire has destroyed a small gas station in Chilliwack.

Fire chief Rick Ryall says nobody was injured in the blaze that began in the station's garage while crews were working on a car.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Discovery Square could be renamed to honour former mayor

Art Phillips. Proposed new park naming process raises local controversy

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
vancouver@metronews.ca

Residents and transit riders used to the downtown oasis of greenery called Discovery Square may soon find themselves relaxing in Art Phillips Square.

The parks board will vote Monday on whether to begin a renaming process for Discovery Square, located near the Burrard SkyTrain station.

The motion recommends that the new name commemorate the contributions of Vancouver's 32nd mayor, Art Phillips.

Aaron Jasper, parks board member and author of the motion, said he was approached by some friends of the 81-year-old former mayor about celebrating "how important Phillips has been to creating the livable city we take for granted."

"Phillips was instrumental in having that site turned into a park," said Jasper. In 1974, the then-mayor raised much of the money that went into creating Discovery Square.

The naming process the parks board has used since 2007 is currently under review, and several park staff are calling for a more streamlined process.

One proposed new naming system would move much of the process of local consultation online, which has some locals up in arms over what they see as the chance for corruption.

"The last thing we want is a return to the old days where city park commissioners were sitting around deciding which parks to name after themselves," Jasper said.

Last week, Jasper also suggested that Trillium North sports field be renamed Jim Green Park, in memory of the recently deceased city councillor.

For more local news visit metronews.ca/vancouver

Vancouverite enters Dragon's Den, emerges with $25K deal

It's official: Vancouver's Bradley Friesen is the first contestant on the CBC's Dragon's Den reality investment show to ink a joint deal with all five dragons. Friesen's product is a hangover cure that's consumed before the drinker goes to bed for the night. Friesen collected $25,000 for 10 per cent of the venture. For the full story visit metronews.ca/vancouver. Here, he holds a tray of his LastCall hangover-prevention drinks at the Granville Room on Wednesday. GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

RCMP. Charge recommended against officer for crash

Abbotsford police are recommending a charge against an RCMP officer in the vehicular death of a 20-year-old man last year in Agassiz.

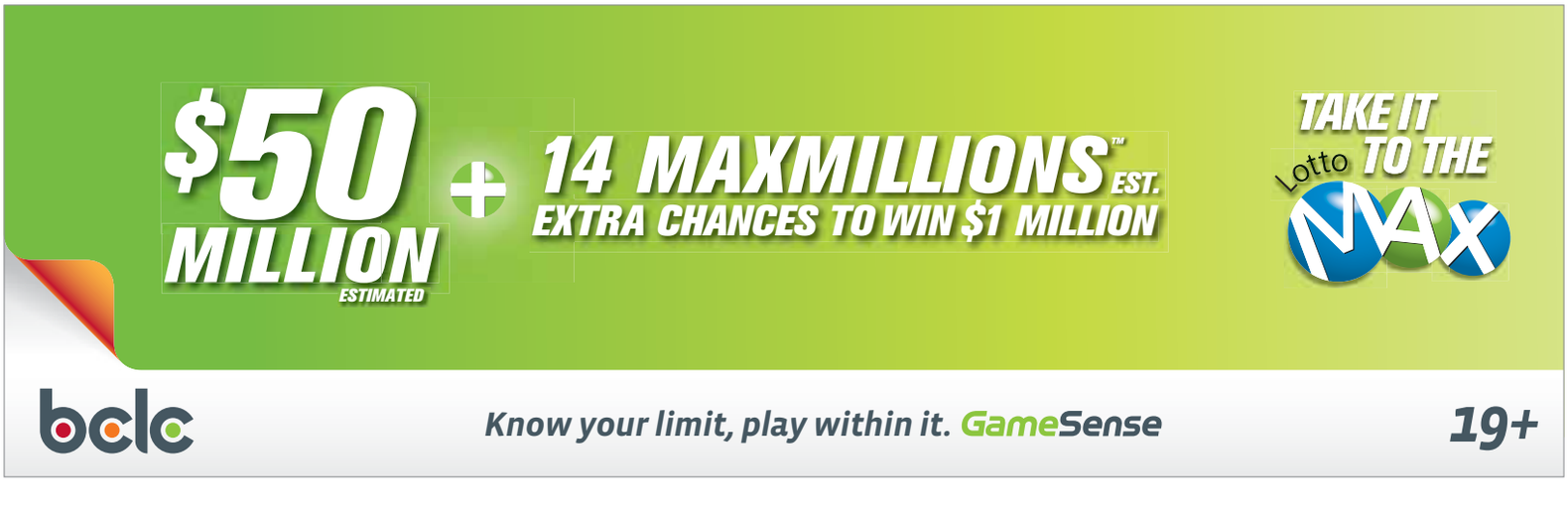
APD have forwarded a report to Crown that recommends a single charge of driving without due care and attention in the July 12 collision on Highway 7 that killed Steven Genburg, 20, and injured passenger Jonathan Dauphney, 19. JEFF HODSON/METRO

Missing women. Two new aboriginal-interest lawyers

The troubled Missing Women Commission of Inquiry is set to resume next month after two new lawyers were appointed to represent aboriginal interests.

Suzette Narbonne and Elizabeth Hunt have been hired on as independent counsel.

They will replace Robyn Gervais, who stepped down in a storm of controversy earlier this month. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO



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Union warns against cuts

Budget. Labour leaders say cutbacks could affect public safety

The country could see seniors left in the cold, fishermen stranded on cliffs and unsafe food getting to stores if the Conservative government proceeds with billions in spending cuts, public servants warned Wednesday.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada wants the government to put further cuts on hold until it reviews the social and economic impact of those already underway.

Though thousands of civil servants could face layoffs after next week's federal budget, they said their worry isn't about saving their own jobs.

"It's about public safety," said Merv Wiseman, a 35-year veteran of the Canadian Coast Guard.

The Conservatives aim to slash between $4 and $8 billion a year in government spending to erase the deficit by 2015-2016. The last budget called for expenditures of just over $270 billion with a deficit of about $33 billion.

While the focus is on cutting program spending, jobs connected to those programs will disappear and one estimate has said as many as 60,000 positions could be at risk.

But the government says the budget also won't be a guillotine chopping thousands of jobs in one go.

A spokesman for Treasury Board President Tony Clement said there is a responsible plan.

"We are not surprised that self-serving union bosses would once again tout a plan to raise taxes, hike spending and increase the size of government," Sean Osmar said in an email. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rescue

"Surely, our government can afford to keep a marine rescue centre in St. John's."

Inuit hunter Todd Broomfield, who was rescued off the Labrador coast last year

Spectator becomes protester, avenges destroyed of laptop

Nassina Ali, of Brooklyn, became an activist associated with the Occupy Wall Street movement after the police smashed her laptop while she was a spectator during a rally in Union Square in New York. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Murder charges laid. Police get break in Toronto cold case

Just one phone call was the break investigators desperately needed in the case of a girl's body found in a burning suitcase in 1994, resulting in first-degree murder charges against the victim's father and stepmother nearly two decades later.

Until that call from a "person with a conscience," even the girl's identity eluded police. They had little to go on after a patrol officer came upon the suitcase, surrounded by tires and set on fire in an industrial area north of Toronto, on Sept. 1, 1994.

The remains of the young woman were so badly charred that the case went cold for nearly two decades.

The telephone tip led to a visit to the girl's biological mother in Kingston, Jamaica, where cold-case investigators, working with the RCMP and the Jamaica Constabulary Force, obtained the DNA sample used to identify the human remains as those of 17-year-old Melonie Biddersingh.

"It just goes to show the power of a phone call," said Det.-Sgt. Steve Ryan.

The girl's mother didn't know she had died until police contacted her.

"She was of the belief that her daughter was a young adult, a productive member of our society," Ryan said.

"She made several attempts to contact her."

Melonie, her brother and stepbrother travelled to Toronto from Jamaica in 1990 to live with their father, Everton Biddersingh, and stepmother, Elaine Biddersingh, so they could have a better life, police said.

Everton, 56, and Elaine Biddersingh, 50, were arrested on March 5 at their home in Welland, Ont., and charged with first-degree murder.

Ryan wouldn't comment on reports that Melonie had been a victim of abuse before her death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victim Melonie Biddersingh
TORONTO POLICE HANDOUT

Health concerns

Brazil suspends importing of breast implants

Brazil has temporarily suspended the importation of all silicone breast implants.

The National Agency for Sanitary Vigilance says in a statement that the ban will be in place until new quality standards for future imports are defined. The statement was released Tuesday night.

Health concerns emerged last year due to faulty implants sold by the now-defunct French company Poly Implant Prothese and Dutch company Rofil Medical Nederland. The implants were made with cheap, industrial-grade silicone instead of medical-grade gel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Standoff with suspected terrorist leads to firefight

French police have been attempting to apprehend a suspect in the shooting at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish school. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French riot police set off explosions outside an apartment building early Thursday in an effort to force the surrender of a gunman who boasted of bringing France "to its knees" with an al-Qaida-linked terror spree that killed seven people.

As the standoff dragged into a second day, hundreds of heavily armed police, some in body armour, cordoned off the five-storey building in Toulouse where the 24-year-old suspect, Mohamed Merah, had been holed up.

Just after midnight, local time, three explosions were heard and orange flashes lit up the night sky near the building. An Interior Ministry official said the suspect had gone back on a previous pledge to turn himself in — and that police blew up the shutters outside the apartment window to pressure him to surrender.

Hours later two new blasts and a burst of gunfire were heard, though officials said no full-out assault was under way.

Authorities said he told negotiators he killed a rabbi and three young children at a Jewish school on Monday and three French paratroopers last week to avenge the deaths of Palestinian children and to protest the French army's involvement in Afghanistan, as well as a government ban last year on face-covering Islamic veils.

"He has no regrets, except not having more time to kill more people," Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins told a news conference.

Those slain at the Jewish school, all of French-Israeli nationality, were buried in Israel on Wednesday as relatives sobbed inconsolably. The bodies of Rabbi Jonathan Sandler, his sons Arieh, 5, and Gabriel, 3, and eight-year-old Myriam Monsenego had been flown there earlier in the day.

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, meanwhile, denounced the shooting at the Jewish school and condemned the link to Palestinian children.

"It's time for criminals to stop using the Palestinian cause to justify their terrorist actions," Fayyad said. "The children of Palestine want nothing but dignified lives for themselves and for all the children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family members react Wednesday during the funeral of the victims of Monday's shooting in Toulouse, France. SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mulcair looks to wrap up top NDP job

Politics. Montreal MP seen as front-runner as Saturday's NDP leadership vote approaches — but uncertainties remain

He hesitated at the starting gate, but after a seven-month marathon Thomas Mulcair is leading the pack as it pounds down the home stretch of the federal NDP leadership race.

The only question is whether he can be nipped at the wire.

Inside bettors suggest probably not. But the NDP's complicated process for selecting a successor to the late Jack Layton makes it difficult to handicap the outcome with any confidence, even at this late stage.

Whether any of his six rivals can beat the Montreal MP to the finish line Saturday depends on a host of unpredictable factors, including how many of the 131,000 eligible New Democrats actually vote, how far ahead Mulcair is on the first ballot, the order in which trailing contenders drop off the ballot and whether their supporters move primarily to one candidate or scatter.

Most difficult to predict are the individual choices tens of thousands of New Democrats are making — in the privacy of their own homes, free of the groupthink and the hoopla of Saturday's convention in Toronto — as they mark their ballots. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Advance voting

43K

As of Wednesday morning, 43,000 had voted in advance, online or by mail, ranking their preferences from first through seventh. Assuming a high voter turnout of 70 per cent, that means almost half had voted early, with tens of thousands more ballots expected to pour in until advance voting is cut off at 11 a.m. on Friday.

Dog days of spring not so doggone cold for a change

A dog hangs his head out a window in downtown Winnipeg on Wednesday afternoon when temperatures reached 15 C under sunny skies, well above the average of 1 C for this time of year. Canadians from coast to coast are enjoying an unseasonably warm start to spring, with temperatures expected to be as high as 27 in some parts of the country on Thursday. SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO IN WINNIPEG

Urban beekeeper on the hunt for colony

Sharon Woodhouse and her son Joel Woodhouse, urban beekeepers, are on the hunt for part of their honeybee colony. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO IN CALGARY

Lost in Sunalta. One Calgary resident is asking her community to be on the lookout for missing honeybees

KATIE TURNER
Metro in Calgary

There's a lot of buzz in the downtown Calgary community of Sunalta surrounding a colony of bees that may be missing.

Urban beekeeper Sharon Woodhouse said for the last two years her yard has been home to a colony of honeybees. Her intention is to strengthen the honeybee population.

"There's been talk of the bee population declining and how important they are to our food sources and I just thought it was a really great thing to do," she said.

Late last summer, Woodhouse said she noticed the bee population was declining from the estimated 30,000 she believes were once in the hive.

Assuming part of the colony split because the hive was crowded, Woodhouse said she didn't think much of it until recently, with the beginning of spring now here.

"My biggest fear was if somebody found the bees, say if they had flown into a garage or if they were in a nook underneath the roof and started to build a home, that people would see it and get scared," she said.

Knowing honeybees usually have a five-kilometre radius, Woodhouse sent a note to her neighbours in Sunalta through the community association and hopes that if her colony is found she can pick them up rather than having someone exterminate them.

"I'm hoping around April they'll start to get a little bit more active as it warms up," she said. "Honeybees are not hunters. They're pollen gatherers. They're absolute marvels of nature and I didn't want people to be frightened."

Honeybee watch

Sharon is asking anyone who sees honeybee activity in Sunalta to email: swoodhouse@telus.net.

- **Woodhouse estimates** that about 100 pounds of honey was generated from the single hive in her yard last year.
- **Honeybee hives are** made of wax, while wasps' nests are made primarily from paper pulp.

Evidence

Jury in Stafford trial sees McClintic police interview

A police video showing a tearful Terri-Lynne McClintic saying she stood watching, frozen, as her boyfriend sexually assaulted and killed eight-year-old Victoria Stafford was shown Wednesday to a jury that's been told it can now treat it as evidence.

The videotaped interview from May 24, 2009 — days after she and boyfriend Michael Rafferty were charged in the death of the Grade 3 student — provides a very different account of who killed Tori from McClintic's testimony in court.

In court last week, McClintic said all the details about Tori's death that she had previously described were accurate, except that it was she, not Rafferty, who wielded the hammer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Possible appeal

Crown reviewing Graham James sentence

A spokesperson for Manitoba Justice says the Crown is reviewing the prison sentence handed to disgraced junior hockey coach Graham James for sexual abuse.

The Crown has 30 days to decide whether to appeal.

James was sentenced Tuesday for repeated sexual assaults on retired NHL star Theo Fleury and his cousin, Todd Holt, when the two played junior hockey for James in the 1980s and '90s.

The sentence sparked immediate outrage across the country from people who suggested it is too lenient.

James could be eligible for day parole in September and full parole in November. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police raids

Quebec firefighters arrested on pot, contraband charges

It's alleged that in one small Quebec town, firefighters didn't just put out flames — they also helped many, many people light up.

Four firefighters have been arrested in a broader crackdown against marijuana and contraband cigarettes in Quebec, following a series of raids Wednesday that even saw a municipal fire hall targeted.

The town mayor says they were excellent firemen. Provincial police say they were even more prolific sellers of pot and illegal smokes.

The four volunteer firefighters were among 23 people arrested in police raids that took place in a number of Quebec towns. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sombre memorial for bus crash victims

Funeral. Belgium mourns for 28 killed, most of them children

King Albert II and thousands of mourners on Wednesday remembered the 28 victims of last week's bus crash in a Swiss tunnel during a memorial service centring on the 22 schoolchildren whose promise of youth was shattered by sudden death.

Under a sparkling sky, in Lommel, Belgium, soldiers took part in a solemn procession that carried 15 coffins into a 5,000-capacity hall. The brown casket contained the remains of a teacher, the 14 white ones held the bodies of children who were on the cusp of their teenage years.

The students and the teacher were from one of two schools in northern Belgium that shared a bus for a traditional "snow class" vacation in Switzerland. They were returning from that exuberant holiday on March 13 when tragedy struck. Their bus, carrying 52 people, slammed into a tunnel wall. In addition to the dead, 24 children were injured.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

A separate service will be held Thursday for the victims from the other school, in the town of Heverlee.

Three girls who were on the trip remain in Switzerland. They were badly injured, but they have regained consciousness and are out of immediate danger. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loss

"Is there something worse than parents who lose what they love most?"

Peter Vanvelthoven
Mayor of Lommel, Belgium

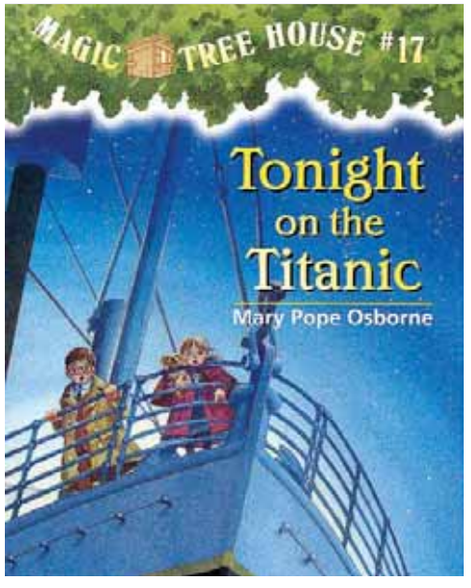
Mourners watch a memorial service on a video screen outside an arena in Lommel, Belgium, on Wednesday. ERMINDO ARMINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unarmed teen killed

Rights groups demand arrest in shooting

Civil rights leaders in the U.S. pressured authorities to make an arrest in the case of an unarmed black teenager shot to death by a neighbourhood-watch captain after declaring victories in getting federal and state officials to investigate.

The case has become a nationwide sensation and ignited a furor against the police department of the Orlando suburb of Sanford, where 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot last month. It has prompted rallies around the state and a protest in Gov. Rick Scott's office Tuesday. U.S. Justice Department has opened a civil rights probe into the shooting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Titanic tales for kids

In the lead-up to the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, many parents, teachers and writers of children's books are balancing potentially scary details with more inspirational fare focused on survivors. Mary Pope Osborne's children's book, Tonight on the Titanic, is aimed toward 6- to 10-year-olds and features her kid characters Jack and his sister, Annie. CONTRIBUTED/RANDOM HOUSE BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

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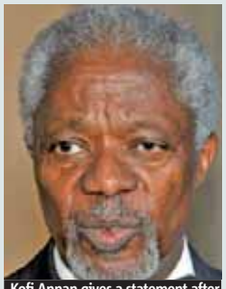

Kofi Annan gives a statement after his address to the Security Council. MARTIAL TREZZINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria

Security Council calls for ceasefire

UN Security Council diplomats said Wednesday they have agreed on a council statement backing envoy Kofi Annan's efforts to end the yearlong bloodshed in Syria.

The non-binding statement calls for a ceasefire in Syria and opening conflict areas to humanitarian aid. The governments of the 15 council nations had been given until Wednesday to raise any objections to the text of the statement. Diplomats said none had done so.

France watered down its proposed Security Council statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington

Romney closing in on nomination

The Republican establishment is increasingly lining up behind Mitt Romney in the race to choose a candidate to challenge U.S. President Barack Obama, finally giving clarity to a long and grinding nominating contest that has exposed deep divisions within the party.

Romney notched a convincing victory in the heartland state of Illinois, followed by an endorsement from former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mauritania

African nation denies extradition

A high-ranking government official from Mauritania is denying that the country agreed to hand over one of Moammar Gadhafi's ex-intelligence chiefs for trial in Libya. His comment comes after Libya's spokesman said Mauritania was planning to extradite Abdullah al-Senoussi back to Libya.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kony 2012 director diagnosed with brief psychosis, says spouse

In recovery. Jason Russell's wife says his breakdown due to 'shock' after video gets 84-million hits

The director of a wildly popular video about brutal African warlord Joseph Kony has been diagnosed with a mental condition triggered by trauma or stress and is expected to stay in the hospital for weeks, his wife said Wednesday.

Jason Russell, 33, director of the Kony 2012 video that has been viewed more than 84-million times on YouTube, was hospitalized last week in California after witnesses saw him running through streets in his underwear, screaming incoherently and banging his fists on the pavement.

Russell was given a preliminary diagnosis of brief reactive psychosis.

Jason Russell speaks at an Invisible Children event. He was hospitalized in California after witnesses saw him behaving strangely. KRIS CONNOR/GETTY IMAGES

"Doctors say this is a common experience given the great mental, emotional and physical shock his body has gone through in these last two weeks. Even for us, it's hard to understand the sudden transition from relative anonymity to worldwide attention — both raves and ridicules, in a matter of days," wife Danica Russell said in a statement.

Brief reactive psychosis is triggered by trauma or major stress such as an accident or the death of a loved one. Other stressors can include sleep deprivation or dehydration. Symptoms include delusions, hallucinations, and strange speech and behaviour.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resolution

U.S. senators take action on Kony's crimes

A bipartisan group of 34 U.S. senators introduced a resolution Wednesday condemning Joseph Kony and his ruthless guerrilla group for a 26-year campaign of terror in central Africa that has been marked by child abductions and widespread killings.

The measure backs the effort of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the newest country, South Sudan, to stop Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army.

The legislation also signals support for the U.S. effort to help regional forces pursue commanders of the militia group. Last October, U.S. President Barack Obama sent about 100 troops to central Africa as advisers to regional forces.

The U.S. designated the LRA a terrorist organization in 2001.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NEXT PHASE OF CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Canada

Air Canada woes concern travellers

Consumer confidence. Some passengers willing to pay more on other airlines to avoid potential service issues

Air Canada has work to do to regain the confidence of passengers after flight cancellations, unresolved labour disputes and the closure of its main repair firm, industry observers said Wednesday.

Jeffrey Bodnarok, who was travelling with his family of six, carefully checked the status of his flight to Punta Cana on Wednesday before making his way to Montreal's Trudeau International Airport.

Bodnarok said he was concerned about the flight after cancellations last weekend, due in part to pilots calling in sick, and this week's closure of aircraft maintenance firm Aveos Fleet Performance.

"I was more concerned that our flight was OK to leave today with what happened this week and everything is good for us," he said at the airport.

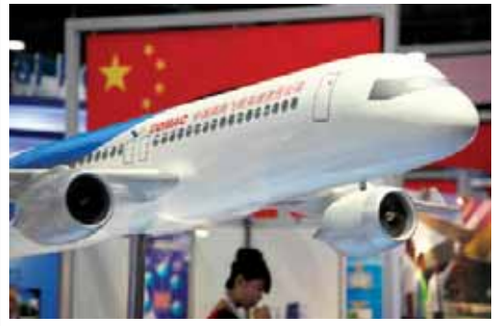
Air Canada has been plagued with labour troubles over the past year.

The airline and its pilots and mechanics have been engaged in a bitter contract feud that prompted the federal government to step in this month. Ottawa has also had to intervene in previous labour disputes at the airline.

Travel agent Isabella Caporicci of NDG Travel in Montreal said some nervous passengers have shunned Canada's largest air carrier and switched to alternative airlines to avoid any disruption to their travel plans.

Some who view flying with Air Canada as "just too iffy" have even been willing to pay more or endure several airport connections for better service, Caporicci said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



New partnership takes flight

A model of a commercial C919 jumbo jet is displayed at the Asian Aerospace International Expo in Hong Kong in 2009. Bombardier signed an agreement Wednesday to collaborate on forthcoming projects with China's COMAC aircraft manufacturer. VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Moment

DOLLAR
100.78¢ US
(-0.05¢)

TSX 12,436.5.7 (+5.79)

OIL $107.27 US (+$1.20)

GOLD $1,651.10 US (+$3.30)

Natural gas: $2.33 US (-0.3¢)
Dow Jones: 13,124.6 (-45.6)

Car manufacturing

GM gets $288M subsidy to keep up plants in Australia

The U.S. government announced Thursday a $288-million US subsidy for General Motors Co. to guarantee it continues to manufacture cars in Australia for another decade through its subsidiary Holden Ltd. As part of the deal, GM said in a statement it has agreed to invest more than $1 billion at its Melbourne and Adelaide plants until at least 2022. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pipeline

Obama to call for fast-tracking of Keystone leg

U.S. President Barack Obama is ordering federal agencies to expedite the approval process for the southern leg of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

The president is expected to direct the agencies to fast-track the pipeline on Thursday in Cushing, Okla., where there's a glut of Midwest oil that can't easily get to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WORKOPOLIS

PUT AN END TO THE ETIQUETTE ARGUMENT

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Since Adam and Eve first realized they should slap on a fig leaf if they wanted to appear in children's picture books, humanity has realized the importance of proper manners.

I feel strongly about all things etiquette, which is why I have written the following advice Q&A — a feat never attempted before by a columnist at my skill level.

Q: Should letter writers call you Mr. Manners or Ed Etiquette or what?

- Larry Letterwriter

A: Dear Larry: The works of Emily Post tell us that the proper way to begin a letter to a newspaper columnist include: "Your Excellency," "You sexy thing" and "You may have already won $10 million!"

Q: We have new friends we like and we want to let them know we really appreciate their friendship. If I invite them over, how do I make them feel privileged to be there?

- Chipper & Perky Smith

From the expert:

"As you have new friends, I consider the question outside my expertise. I therefore asked a guy on the sidewalk, who said, 'Verbal re-enforcement is key.'"

A: Dear Chipper and Perky: As you have new friends, I consider the question outside my expertise. I therefore asked a guy on the sidewalk, who said, "Verbal re-enforcement is key." Constantly telling your guests, "You're privileged to be here, you know," in a forceful tone will make a lasting impression.

Q: Where should I put the spoon after dessert? If it's served on a plate with a low rim, do I leave it inside the plate or on the side?

- Cornelius Hiram Flowerbottom III, Esq.

A: Dear Mr. Flowerbottom III, Esq.: I have an excellent suggestion of where you should stick your spoon. Judging from your question, however, I have reason to believe you followed that advice many years ago.

Q: I'm dating one of those ultra-cooks who demands you cut cabbage at the proper angle, constantly serves the internal organs of some creature or other and cuts radish rosettes with a speed and efficiency that makes you wonder how she obtained said internal organs. Recently, we've been arguing because she thinks I'm a slob and I think she's right but don't care. She's been getting picky about things like the proper utensil (I think she made up the "salad spoon"). Anyway, things aren't going well and I still haven't made any headway with her younger sister, so what do I do to clear things up?

- Between a rock and a hot plate

A: Dear Between: The important thing to remember here is that the steak knife — placed just to the right of the napkin — is the sharpest knife. Do what you will.

Q: What's the proper way to say goodbye to people you've strung along under the pretense of giving advice when you were really only filling space in a newspaper column for money?

A: So long, suckers.

Your most important etiquette lesson is that your cutlery has multiple functions.
ISTOCK

Hanging by a thread

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Expressive

Getting 'hung up' in artistic work

Suspended by wires, Chinese artist Li Wei performs in the sky at La Villette in Paris on Tuesday. Li Wei, born in 1970 in Hubei, China, is a contemporary artist from Beijing. His work often depicts him in gravity-defying situations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Captivating

Some of his stunts are hair-raising

The artist has produced several self-portraits that involve his face reflected in mirrors in public places, photographs of himself crashing into walls and sidewalks, and many other potentially risky situations, according to the Daily Mail website.

METRO

Particularity

Artists take work to new heights

The artists' scene in China today is moving away from sculptures and paintings to a more performance-based art, using photography and video, according to the Asian Art Coordinating Council. Many forward-thinking artists now use their body as a canvas.

METRO

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Hunting purely for sport is:

50% OK, IF THAT'S YOUR THING

50% CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY

Twitter

@simonpegg: Has anyone seen my 8 Bit skull and crossbones t-shirt? The one I got in Vancouver. I wore it on Top Gear. Please RT. I miss it so much.

@bifnaked: #Vancouver bless this day and the snow and the rain and the sunshine and the pain and all the people and the @VanCanucks Amen.

@si_kwok: I still see hail coming down #Vancouver! Winter not over just yet!

@CDNsports: Vancouver #Canucks most likely 1st round opponent at 19% is the Colorado #Avalanche

@ellyblue: Vancouver BC-ites! @skeskali is starting a bike riding group for fat-bottomed ladies. Spread the word please! And contact her. #womencycling

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The Barber of Seville: A stylish cut that sings

Theatre. Queen Elizabeth Theatre to host renowned play for a short time only

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Joshua Hopkins stars as Figaro and Sandra Piques Eddy as Rosina. TIM MATHESON/VANCOUVER OPERA

It's been called a masterpiece and, at 200 years old, is one of the most-enduring comedic operas ever written. But you're going to have to be quick to catch Vancouver Opera's Barber of Seville at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Why? Well it's only slated for five performances. And you've already missed two of them.

But don't worry — the proverbial fat lady doesn't sing until Sunday afternoon — so there's still time to take in Rossini's witty work.

This re-imagining comes with a few twists, however.

Set in 1940s Seville on a movie studio backlot, it features new costumes and staging with characters to match: As per VO's advance publicity for the production, "Rosina is the starlet, Bartolo is the studio owner (and Rosina's slimy agent), Almaviva is a star-struck nobleman, and Figaro is the studio hairstylist with a flair for finagling and tomfoolery!"

Canadian baritone Joshua Hopkins stars as Figaro; mezzo-soprano Sandra Piques Eddy stars as Rosina; Texas-born tenor Rene Barbera debuts on the Vancouver Opera stage as Almaviva; bass-baritone Thomas Hammons sings Bartolo; Thomas Goerz sings Basilio, music coach and the studio photographer; mezzo-soprano Barbara Towell is Berta; and baritone Michael Nyby sings Fiorello.

See the Barber of Seville Thursday night, Saturday night or Sunday afternoon at the Q.E. Theatre. Tickets available exclusively through the Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre, online at vancouveropera.ca or by phone 604-683-0222. Family packs with special rates for children under 18 are also available for the Sunday matinee.

Tickets

- **Jack White.** How many bands does Jack White have? Hard to keep track. Luckily, this time he's coming to Vancouver as just himself. Well, actually, he'll be with some guests. So it will be like a new band, more or less. Anyways, catch the guitar wiz May 27 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver. Tickets $35 and $45, on sale Friday morning at 10.
- **Kaiser Chiefs.** Mercury Prize-shortlisted Brit band plays the Commodore Ballroom tomorrow night. LiveNation.com.

Controversy. Choreographer wasn't out to shock with Minaj routine

It was Canadian choreographer Laurieann Gibson who orchestrated Nicki Minaj's Grammy performance last month, which — not surprisingly — sparked controversy with its mix of religious iconography, sexual suggestiveness and a mock exorcism.

But Gibson, who has worked closely with the likes of Lady Gaga and Katy Perry, insists she was surprised by the backlash.

"It never felt risky — I wouldn't do risky — I think the only risky part of it was making sure Nicki was prepared to pull off a performance with that many levels. It was her first really big performance and I wanted to be in control of it," Gibson said Tuesday while in Toronto to shoot the upcoming Global series Canada Sings, in which she'll appear as a judge.

According to Gibson, it wasn't her idea to go with the religious theme. Minaj, she said, wanted to play with the idea of exorcising her fictional alter ego, which she calls Roman Zolanski, during the performance of songs Roman's Revenge and Roman Holiday.

"I was like, 'Oh brother,'" Gibson said of her initial reaction to the concept. "Then I was just very inspired by the theatrical ability (of the songs), with the Vatican, and The Borgias, which is one of my favourite shows."

Some viewers said they were downright offended by the performance, including the Catholic League. "What I say is my (art) is just a mirror, it's an image, and if art reflects this other demonic reaction of hatred and confusion then I say, 'My God, you might want to look in the mirror,'" said Gibson. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Laurieann Gibson says she was surprised at the backlash from Nicki Minaj's Grammy performance. TOM UHLMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 SCENE

Charity

Olivia Wilde to host cancer research run in New York

Nine years ago, actress Olivia Wilde ran, or rather walked, in the Elf Revlon Run/Walk. In May, she will host the event that supports women's cancer research with fellow first-time ambassador Emma Stone. "Emma and I will kick off the event and welcome everybody, then we'll participate," Wilde said of her duties, which include pounding New York pavement with thousands of participants. The House star says she may even run alongside Stone, but only for a short time. "Maybe Emma will run in the front, and I'll bring up the rear," Wilde joked. "I probably will have such shin splints after attempting to run, I will be recovering on ice."

On the Web

Zsa Zsa Gabor's care subject of Los Angeles court case after daughter requests conservatorship

Bombs at the box office

Many had high hopes for Disney's John Carter, an epic space western directed by Pixar legend Andrew Stanton. But, although the movie was only released a few weeks ago, the company has already admitted their failure: The movie will generate an operating loss of $200 million from production and marketing costs. Sadly, John Carter will go down in history as a major flop. Here are other "memorable" films that are only known for bombing the box office.

METRO

Mars might need moms, but Earth didn't need this film. HANDOUT

John Carter's flop at the box office ranks among the biggest in history. HANDOUT

John Carter

- **Walt Disney Pictures, 2012.** Disney said John Carter has brought in about $184 million in ticket sales worldwide so far. But ticket sales are split roughly in half with theatre owners. The movie's production budget is estimated to be about $250 million with about $100 million more spent on marketing. Disney said the loss on John Carter will cause its studio to lose $80 million to $120 million for the quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mars Needs Moms

- **Walt Disney Pictures, 2011.** Bad news for Disney: Earth didn't need Moms. Not only is the movie 37 per cent rotten and has a weak 49 out of 100 score on Metacritic, it only grossed $40 million worldwide of its $175 million budget. It opened on over 3,000 screens, so it had all the chances it could to be a success — well, except for a decent plot.

Cutthroat Island

- **Carolco Pictures, 1995.** This pirate-themed action film starring Geena Davis and Frank Langella cost $115 million to make, but only raked in a paltry $18.5 million worldwide. Adjusting for inflation, that's a loss of over $147.2 million. Ouch. It also previously held the Guinness World Record for Largest Box Office Loss. Double ouch.

Sahara

- **Paramount Pictures, 2005.** Even if your film stars two international sex symbols, Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz, you can still go wrong. Paramount paid $241 million to get Sahara in theatres. Sadly, the reward was not great: It lost $121.7 million. The poor box office showing prevented the sequel that McConaughey had said was being considered.

Penelope Cruz and Matthew McConaughey. HANDOUT

The Alamo

- **Touchstone Pictures, 2004.** The Alamo only grossed $25.8 million worldwide, and 87 per cent of that came from the U.S. audience. Apparently, no one remembered The Alamo.

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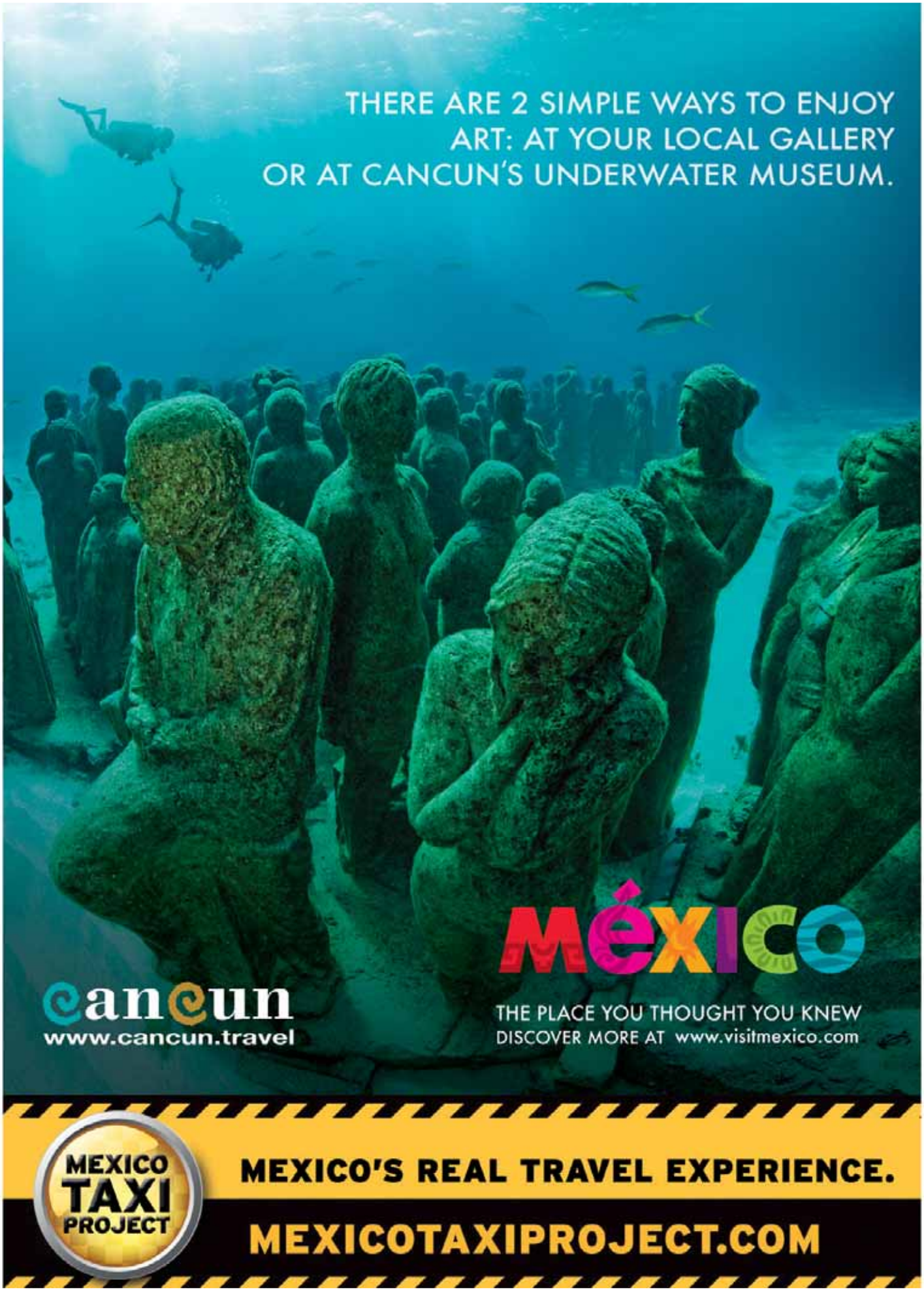
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Acting with child

As an experienced actor, Sutherland is faced with a new challenge.

- **New challenge.** Of course, there's an associated challenge for Sutherland. At age 45, he's a veteran actor with a hit TV series and dozens of film roles to his credit. But now he must share scenes with a child who has no lines to volley back to him, and who displays little physical response to anything.

Aiming to Touch a global audience

Kiefer Sutherland. New show centres on communication, and they're trying to reach viewers like never before

Touch hero Jake Bohm is obsessed with numbers, and in a voice-over on this week's premiere episode, the otherwise mute 11-year-old numerologist shares an interesting statistic, "Today the average person will say 2,250 words to 7.4 other individuals."

An average person, sure. But not Kiefer Sutherland in recent weeks.

Sutherland (who plays Jake's devoted father, Martin) has lately been a chatterbox, talking up his show all over the world.

"I'm like the brainy student who blows the curve for the rest of the class," he says with a laugh. "I've met a lot of folks."

It's Monday, the morning after a Touch world-premiere screening in Manhattan, which came on the winged heels of a global blitz that took Sutherland to London, Berlin, Madrid and Moscow. In a couple of hours, he'll be back on a plane returning to L.A., where, with the publicity campaign now just about over, he'll resume shooting Touch full-time.

But right now, he's got a few more words to voice about the show (which debuts Thursday on Global).

For instance, how the universal focus of Touch (created by Tim Kring, architect of the likewise far-flung series Heroes) is reflected in its launch strategy. It's premiering in synch with the U.S. market in more than 100 other countries. Convening a global TV audience that way is unprecedented for a weekly drama series.

"If Touch can be the conduit for a conversation between 150 million people worldwide on a website — talking about things they have in common, as opposed to their differences — that would be amazing," muses Sutherland.

But as Touch has gotten under way, it has touched on Sutherland's memories of his first season doing 24, the action-intrigue show where he played intrepid counter-terrorist Jack Bauer for eight seasons starting in 2001.

"I'd forgotten what it was like to build the framework of a new show," he says.

"It's the most exciting part of doing a show, but it's also the most difficult. The pilot script for Touch was beautiful, but if it isn't fully realized as a series, I'll feel culpable. So there's a kind of panic I had forgotten about since we started 24."

The biggest challenge, says Sutherland, is crafting the on-screen relationship between widowed father Martin and his son.

No wonder. Jake is an emotionally challenged child who never speaks and recoils from any physical contact, even with his dad.

Yet, in his seemingly isolated state, Jake is able to discern mathematical relationships between divergent people around the world (a "giant mosaic of patterns and ratios... hidden in plain sight," as he puts it) that help bring those people together in beneficial ways.

It falls to Martin to puzzle out Jake's numerical cues and then follow through with the necessary legwork. Meanwhile, he struggles to forge a human connection with his son.

"You have to make this relationship relatable to viewers," says Sutherland. "When I read the script, I identified with it hugely: There was a time with my daughter between her 12th and 13th birthdays when, literally, there wasn't a question I asked her that she didn't answer with a single word. I think all parents have communications issues with their children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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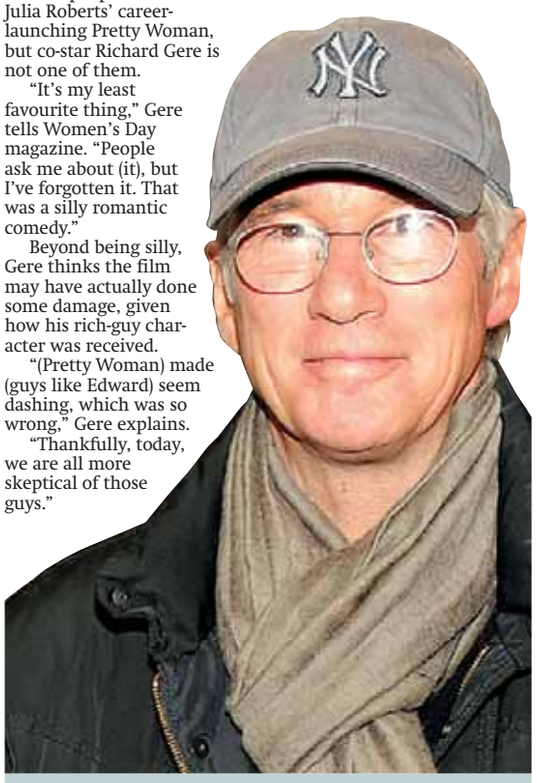
Kiefer Sutherland lends a common Touch to his new series uniting people around the world. HANDOUT

Gere would like to forget Pretty Woman



A lot of people still love Julia Roberts' career-launching Pretty Woman, but co-star Richard Gere is not one of them.

"It's my least favourite thing," Gere tells Women's Day magazine. "People ask me about (it), but I've forgotten it. That was a silly romantic comedy."

Beyond being silly, Gere thinks the film may have actually done some damage, given how his rich-guy character was received.

"(Pretty Woman) made (guys like Edward) seem dashing, which was so wrong," Gere explains.

"Thankfully, today, we are all more skeptical of those guys."

Depp and Olsen: What?!

According to In Touch magazine, Johnny Depp was "hunkered down" in Ashley Olsen's apartment for 24 hours in February.

"It was quiet in her apartment, like it was just the two of them in there," an insider recalls. "It didn't seem like it was just a visit between friends."

Whatever they were up to during their overnighter, it certainly left Johnny exhausted. When the star finally left the next day, "he looked like he was out of it," an onlooker said.

Johnny Depp look out of it? You don't say!

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

What's the situation with The Situation?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino
GETTY IMAGES

There's something fishy going on with Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino, and it's not what you think (I know you're thinking "venereal disease," you dirty, dirty reader, you).

Nope. He's in rehab — but the reasons why are very murky.

Apparently, the Jersey Shore star became "dependent on prescription pills to counter-act his hard partying lifestyle, which included illegal substances. Mike was in a vicious cycle of not sleeping because of the illegal substances that he was taking, so he began using prescription pills to help him sleep," a source told RadarOnline.

"Mike would refer to the prescription pills as 'downers.' The good news is that he was the one that wanted to get help and checked into rehab. Hopefully with the proper treatment, Mike will be able to lead a sober life."

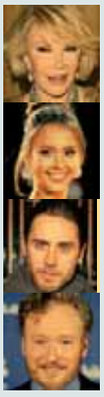
But his representative has denied all of this, issuing the classic "he's suffering from exhaustion" statement: "He is not in rehab for substance abuse. He has spent the last several weeks at an undisclosed location for much needed rest and recuperation after his extensive production and appearance schedule."

As for Sorrentino, he tweeted Tuesday night: "Don't believe everything you read or hear."

Now, I know I'm naive about how these things work. But if he is indeed in rehab for substance abuse, doesn't that mean he probably shouldn't be partying so hard when Jersey Shore goes back for filming the just-announced sixth season? With Snookie not drinking because of her pregnancy and The Situation refraining from "hard partying" because of his demons, what is to become of a show that is completely based around its characters getting wasted?

Jeez. Next thing you know, they're going to start using sunblock.

Twitter



@Joan_Rivers
So depressing. I can't believe I turned 78. I don't feel 76. I guess we all turn 74 eventually. Oh well, 72 is just a number...

@jessicaalba
Coffee please

@jaredleto
I love a nice cool rainy day. You?

@ConanOBrien
At some point, I'm going to have to tell my kids they're not adopted. They'll be crushed.

Reese Witherspoon expecting baby No. 3?

Reese Witherspoon

Reese Witherspoon is reportedly pregnant with her third child — and first with husband Jim Toth, according to Us Weekly.

"Reese is right around 12 weeks," a source explains, adding that Witherspoon is "not planning to announce it."

But it's all said to be part of the plan for the couple, who tied the knot last year.

"Jim and Reese have been trying to get pregnant," a source says. "The timing is right. She's so happy."

Witherspoon also has a 12-year-old daughter, Ava, and an 8-year-old son, Deacon, with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe.

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3 LIFE

Yay or nay?

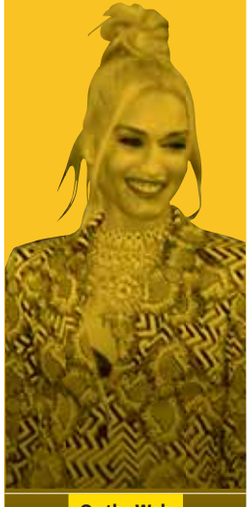
Hipster babies

YAY

- **Your kid will be the trendiest on the playground.**
- **Your child will learn the art of self-expression early.**

NAY

- **Strangers on the street will dismiss your family as hipster clichés.**
- **You could blow the baby's college fund on clothes she'll outgrow in a matter of weeks.**



On the Web

Top CFDA fashion prizes going to Johnny Depp, Tommy Hilfiger and maybe Olsens.

Imagine, a little Snooki

Oh baby! In honour of Hollywood's latest baby boom, we've come up with some predictions for what the round of expecting celebs' might dress their offspring in

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

So far, 2012 has been especially busy on the celebrity bump front. Beyoncé kicked it off with little Blue Ivy. And waiting in the wings: Jessica Simpson, her ex Nick Lachey, Uma Thurman, Sienna Miller, Snooki (yes, her too) and, rumour has it, Drew Barrymore. That means more information than you'd ever want to know about Simpson's salted cantaloupe cravings and the frightening prospect of a little Snooki in Uggs. We dress their babies to be.

Miller's expecting... GETTY

...and Jessica Simpson definitely is. GETTY

Snooki's got a bun in the oven too. GETTY

Mini Jessica Simpson

Baby Gap one-shoulder two-piece.
$25, gap.com

Pint-sized Nick Lachey

Appaman Polo
$40, appaman.com

Mini A Ture Arn in Sesame
$46, kidsen.co.uk

Tiny Sienna Miller

Kidscase organic dress
$37, kidsen.co.uk

Lil' Snooki

Mini Rodini Zebra Print infant bodysuit and leggings
$76, kidsen.co.uk

Smaller Uma Thurman

Marimekko dress
$69, kiitosmarimekko.com

Fashionable ways to style your little ones for springtime

Breton Stripes

Baby Gap bodysuit
$11, gap.com

Gingham

Bonpoint Loraine set
$128, bonpoint.com

Vintage tees

Appaman one piece
$31, appaman.com

Kimonos

Nature baby dress
$25, naturebaby.com

Florals

Giggle romper
$30, giggle.com

Spring has sprung, now manage the frizz

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THE KIT
thekit.ca

GOING STRAIGHT

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$20, uniq-one.com

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JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND, AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: Happiness...

@Jeanne_Beker: And what's a birthday celebration without your best little buddy?

@Jeanne_Beker: Daring to Wear Love @ gretconstantine for the Stephen Lewis Foundation..

@Jeanne_Beker: Admiring the gorgeous silk orchids at Petite + Sweet on Summerhill Ave. in Toronto...

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Flushmount light fixtures add interest without hanging low in the room. Courtney fixture, $290. SEARS

Low-profile furniture helps create taller-looking walls and higher ceilings. Plush Bed, $1,000. CB2

Vertical patterns help to draw the eye up on curtains. Viceroy Velvet Drapes, $108/panel. ANTHROPOLOGIE

Making ceilings soar

Decor ideas. Do your walls have tall aspirations? Here's a few design tricks to make your ceilings appear higher.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

There was a time when eight-foot ceilings were considered the norm in apartments, condos and townhouses.

Over the last 10 years, many newer homes include soaring ceilings to make up for the smaller footprints of space being offered. But if you're dealing with eight-foot ceilings don't despair; there are some designer tips to help make those daunting lower ceilings rise up to the occasion, in a stylish, modern way.

Paint
I have always subscribed to the old rule that ceilings should be white, and this idea holds even truer when ceilings are lower. A light ceiling will reflect light and draw the eye upward rather than bring the ceiling down in to the room. A slight sheen to your paint will make small spaces with low ceilings look larger by reflecting and bouncing light around. When choosing colours for the entire room, it's always best to create a monochromatic scheme, keeping ceilings lighter.

Window treatments
A vertical blind or drapery panels create tall lines in a room and stretch your view upwards. Tall, vertical patterns on draperies will help make the ceilings look higher. Draperies should be within the same colour as the colour of the walls to create a monochromatic colour scheme while still drawing the eye upward.

Furnishings
Keep chairs and sofa heights to a maximum of 36 inches in height in order to create a low-slung, lounge effect; the lower we sit to the ground the higher the ceilings will appear. This rule holds even more true when choosing a bed and night tables. Keep area rugs colourful and dramatic in order to draw the eye down and away from the ceiling. Tall, floor standing mirrors are a great accessory and can help guide the eye upward (plus the mirror visually enlarges a room).

Mouldings and trims
Paint baseboards, door frames, interior doors and crown moulding the same colour and tone as the walls to create a contemporary and simple vibe; plus you add a few extra inches of visual wall height to the room with just the one colour.

Artwork
Lowering all your artwork a few inches from the norm (the middle of the artwork should be 68 to 70 inches off the floor). This will create a greater distance from the top of the art to the ceiling, therefore suggesting the ceilings are a bit taller. This is a great trick in lower levels and basements, too.

Light fixtures
The bottom of a chandelier or swagged lamp should be hung three to four inches higher than average over an eating table. The bottom should normally be 30 inches from table to bottom of fixture, so raise it to about 34 inches and it will visually help to push your ceilings up. Considering the height restrictions, consider a semi-flush light fixture rather than a hanging fixture; they can be just as decorative and yet are not made to hang low into a room (see top left).

Interesting rugs help draw the eye low in the room. Auslini five-by-eight foot hide rug, $400. HOME DEPOT

Don't entertain crumbs

Toasted glory

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the Butler,

I don't have full-time staff, so cleaning my house is just me! A friend of mine told me that I have to clean the toaster. Do I really need to clean my toaster, and how does one clean a toaster, exactly? Toaster Lady

Dear Toaster Lady,
Well yes, your friend is correct. You do need to clean your toaster both inside and outside.

Firstly, unplug the toaster, and either turn it upside down or open the trap door under the toaster to allow all of the crumbs to fall out.

I like to open the trap door over the sink to let all of the crumbs fall into the sink for easy cleanup. This should be done every month or so. Secondly (again, remember to unplug your toaster before you do this), clean the toaster using a multi-purpose cleaner of equal parts water and white vinegar.

Spray this onto a microfibre cloth once, and then wipe the outside of the toaster clean.

My secret confession is that toast is one of my all-time favourite foods! Toasted fresh bread and butter… for me it is heavenly. Would you ever have guessed that Charles the butler is so crazy for silly old toast?! **HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA**

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Licensed contractor Matt Blashaw grew up in a lumberyard. He now hosts Money Hunters. HANDOUT

Save a pile of money on your remodel

DIY ideas. Home improvements don't have to cost an arm and a leg. Here's a few cheap tricks that can make your renos less pricey.

Remodelling can be extremely expensive to take on, but with the right tips and tricks, you can save yourself thousands of dollars without sacrificing the look of your home.

In every episode of Money Hunters, Deanne Bell and Matt Blashaw share money-saving techniques as they show homeowners which materials and techniques will stretch their dollars.

1. Repurpose certain elements that may be too expensive to replace entirely, like cabinet doors. Cabinets are often the most expensive thing to replace in a remodel. Changing just the outdated doors will save money, but still transform the whole look of your kitchen.

2. Add a beadboard backsplash instead of using ceramic tiles. Beadboard is an easy, inexpensive and stylish alternative to a tile backsplash.

3. To open up a small space, paint walls white to give it a fresh and open feel.

4. Shop salvage yards, antique shops and flea markets for deals and finds such as work tables, shelving or cupboards.

5. Purchase an easy-to-assemble wainscoting kit for about $150 at your local hardware store. Wainscoting instantly adds detail and interest to an empty wall. Use it in the kitchen to protect the walls from everyday wear and tear. Depending on the finish and design of the wainscoting, it is practical and usable in any room in your house.

6. When going appliance shopping, look for floor models. You will only be missing the box. Or, check out scratch and dent outlets to find a top-of-the-line model for a reduced price.

MONEY HUNTERS AIRS BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES ON THURSDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

Add some bling

Replace accessories and hardware such as door knobs, kitchen faucets and light fixtures.

- **Small touches go a long way.** You can even put up new window treatments. Something simple can go a long way in updating the look of your remodeled room.

Do some bartering, baby

If doing the work yourself isn't an option, find ways to barter with friends who are handy. Offer to babysit, mow the lawn or run errands in exchange for their handy expertise.

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The early bird may not get the worm

Spring planting. The warmer weather might have you itching to get your hands in the soil. But gardening too soon can damage your soil and grass.

People attend the Canada Blooms garden show Friday in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians here, there and almost everywhere have enjoyed unseasonably warm temperatures at the tail end of this winter, already switching their skates for skateboards and launching into other spring-like activities. But gardeners — as tempting as it may be — might want to keep their rakes in the shed for now, and take care where they tread.

"A lot of people have been asking: what do you do when winter ends or never really starts, and spring has suddenly sprung," says Charlie Dobbin, horticultural director of Canada Blooms, the largest flower and garden show in the country. For starters, she cautions that you should not walk on your lawn or touch your garden until it is dry enough.

"A soggy wet soil is not something you want to put pressure on, even foot pressure," she advises during an interview at the indoor garden show, which started Friday and continues until next Sunday in conjunction with the National Home Show.

She offers up a trick for testing whether the soil is dry enough. "Take a handful of soil, squeeze your hand together, open your hand up. If the ball of soil stays in a ball, stay out of the soil because it's too wet. If that ball breaks open and crumbles in your hand, now you can get out your rake and you can rake your lawn, you can do a little pruning or whatever you need to do."

Gardening expert Mark Cullen agrees it's not a good idea to get into the garden when the soil is sopping wet. "You don't want to move that soil around until it's a little bit dry — dry a couple of centimetres down, otherwise you actually damage the integrity of the soil," he says.

Dobbin hopes retailers won't jump the gun and sell anything now that could die in a cold snap. "Geraniums are a good example. They're pretty, we love them, we often want to buy them as soon as we see them, but they will die in a frost," she says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Emily Richards makes simple look elegant

Pesto Tomato and Lamb Pasta

You can also try another short pasta such as rotini, fusilli or shells. EMILY RICHARDS

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Pesto and Tomato Lamb Pasta. Use pesto to add colour and zip to this simple dish

You can change the flavour of this Pesto Tomato and Lamb Pasta by mixing up the ingredients, to make it easy to incorporate into your kitchen and your family's tastes.

Pesto is great to add for lots of flavour with one simple ingredient.

For a nice touch, sprinkle the finished pasta dish with feta or freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

If your family enjoys some heat, for an added spice, add hot pepper flakes to the onion mixture while cooking.

If you're not a fan of dry penne lisce, you can use rotini, fusilli or shells.

1. In a large non-stick skillet, brown the lamb for about 5 minutes over medium high heat or until no longer pink. Scrape the lamb into colander and let drain.

2. Return the skillet to medium heat and add oil. Cook the onion, garlic and Italian seasoning for 5 minutes or until softened.

3. Add the tomatoes, chicken broth, browned lamb, salt and pepper and bring to boil. Reduce the heat and simmer everything for 8 minutes.

4. Stir in the pesto and black olives; cook for about 5 minutes or until thickened.

5. Meanwhile, in a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the pasta of your choice for about 10 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain well and add to skillet. Toss to coat.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND CELEBRITY TV CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY AND HER RECIPES, VISIT HER WEBSITE, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

4 portions

- 1 lb (500 g) ground Ontario lamb
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (398 mL) diced tomatoes with juices
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chicken broth or stock
- 2 tsp (10 mL) dried Italian herb seasoning
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt, pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sundried tomato pesto
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sliced black olives
- 3 cups (750 mL) dry penne lisce

Cookbook of the Week

Get in the Kitchen and COOK!

Metro's own Emily Richards puts the focus on the busy family and people looking to entertain without a fuss in her second book, Get in the Kitchen and COOK! (Blurb Inc., $35.95, paperback).

The release is chock full of simple, fool-proof recipes for any occasion. This book has everything from appetizers to desserts. "I love food and I love the way food brings friends and family together. It's also a great way of sharing a lifelong skill. No matter what your age, background or interest, it's so easy to come together and talk about food and get inspired," says Richards.

METRO

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4 SPORTS

Canucks preview

Vancouver at Dallas 5:30 p.m. ET (Sportsnet Pacific)

The Canucks (41-18-8) host the Jets (32-27-8), who are within two points of the Southeast Division leading Florida Panthers. Vancouver has won one of its last five games. After allowing three goals in the first five minutes of a 5-3 loss to Buffalo last Saturday, Roberto Luongo allowed four goals on 28 shots in a 5-2 loss to Dallas on Tuesday. Bryan Little has 11 points in the last eight games. Evander Kane has 14 points in the last nine games. Henrik and Daniel Sedin have combined for one point in their last six games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daniel Sedin hurt in Canucks loss

Chippy game.
Blackhawks win 2-1 in overtime of game punctuated with penalties, skirmishes

Rookie Andrew Shaw scored 2:42 into overtime to give the Chicago Blackhawks a 2-1 win over the Vancouver Canucks on Wednesday night.

Shaw was credited with deflecting Johnny Oduya's shot from the slot past Roberto Luongo. Oduya fired from between the circles after he trailed in late and took a feed from Dave Bolland on the left boards.

Patrick Kane scored his 20th goal in the second period for Chicago, which has won five straight and is 9-1-1 in its last 11 despite playing without captain Jonathan Toews.

Jannik Hansen scored in regulation for Vancouver — on the first shot of the game — to break a 15-game streak without a goal. The Canucks lost their second straight, and have won just one of their last five.

Canucks leading goal-scorer Daniel Sedin was injured in the game and did not return. He may have been hurt when he was elbowed in the head by Chicago defenceman Duncan Keith late in the first period.

Chicago centre Marcus Kruger also left the game with an upper body injury.

The contest between the Western Conference rivals — their 35th over the past four seasons including regular-season and playoff games — was punctuated with penalties and skirmishes.

The Blackhawks and Canucks have squared off in emotional post-season series each of the past three years.

The teams' mutual dislike reached a boiling point midway through the second period when several wrestling matches erupted in front of the Chicago net. The Canucks appeared to be targeting Keith, who eventually tussled with Alexandre Burrows. Both players received roughing and misconduct penalties.

Luongo made 35 saves in his return after backup Cory Schneider had started Vancouver's previous two games. Luongo was 0-3-0 and had given up 16 goals on 103 shots in his last four starts — including one no-decision where he allowed three goals on seven shots in the opening five minutes before being relieved by Schneider.

He was sharp in the opening 20 minutes, stopping several tough chances, including a point-blank deflection by Marian Hossa midway through the period.

Chicago's Corey Crawford made 23 saves in his fourth straight start. He has won five straight.

Alex Burrows hits Blackhawks defenceman Duncan Keith in the face as Patrick Sharp tries to break them apart Wednesday night in Chicago. Both Burrows and Keith received game misconduct penalties.
CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Although the Canucks had all three power plays in the first, Chicago outshot Vancouver 12-6.

Hansen scored the only goal of the first period just 27 seconds in.

Kane made it 1-1 at 3:12 of the second to cap a strong shift and crisp passing play with linemates Hossa and Andrew Brunette. After Brunette fed Hossa behind then net, Hossa feathered a centring pass to Kane, who lofted a shot past a diving Luongo from the slot.

Kane scored 5-on-5, but then the Blackhawks failed on five power-play chances in the second.

Crawford had to be sharp in the third as the Canucks began to dominate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saints coach suspended 1 season over bounties

The NFL handed down sweeping and unprecedented punishment Wednesday for bounties paid out on big hits, suspending New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton without pay for next season and indefinitely banning the team's former defensive coordinator, Gregg Williams, who now works for the St. Louis Rams.

Payton is the first head coach suspended by the league for any reason. He is accused of trying to cover up a system of extra cash payouts that NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell called "particularly unusual and egregious" and "totally unacceptable."

"We are all accountable and responsible for player health and safety and the integrity of the game. We will not tolerate conduct or a culture that undermines those priorities," said Goodell, whose league faces more than 20 concussion-related lawsuits brought by hundreds of former players. "No one is above the game or the rules that govern it."

Sean Payton THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

According to the league, Payton ignored instructions from the NFL and Saints ownership to make sure bounties weren't being paid. The league also chastised him for choosing to "falsely deny that the program existed," and for attempting to "encourage the false denials by instructing assistants to 'Make sure our ducks are in a row.'"

Goodell also banned Saints general manager Mickey Loomis for the first eight regular-season games next season, and assistant coach Joe Vitt for the first six games.

In addition, Goodell fined the Saints $500,000 and took away their second-round draft picks this year and next.

The Saints now must decide who will coach the team while Payton is barred — his suspension is effective April 1 — and who will make roster moves while Loomis is out.

After the NFL made clear that punishments were looming, Payton and Loomis took the blame for violations that they acknowledged "happened under our watch" and said Saints owner Tom Benson had nothing to do with the bounty pool, which reached as much as $50,000 in 2009, the season the Saints won the Super Bowl.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bounties

- **Scheme.** The NFL said the scheme involved 22 to 27 defensive players.
- **Targets.** Targeted opponents included quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers, Cam Newton, Brett Favre and Kurt Warner.
- **Value.** "Knockouts" were worth $1,500 and "cart-offs" $1,000, with payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs.
- **Rules.** All payouts for specific performances in a game are against NFL rules.

NFL

Jets and Broncos complete deal for Tim Tebow

The Broncos and the Jets have completed a trade to send quarterback Tim Tebow to New York.

The deal hit a snag earlier Wednesday when the Jets apparently balked at repaying Denver more than $5 million for a salary advance due Tebow. ESPN reported that the two sides had agreed to split that cost.

The Broncos also will receive fourth- and sixth-round draft picks, while New York gets a seventh-rounder — all in 2012 — as agreed to in the initial deal. Denver started shopping Tebow after signing Peyton Manning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tim Tebow
DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Radulov returns: Preds' playoff hopes boosted

Alexander Radulov has rejoined the Nashville Predators after four years playing in Russia in the KHL. How quickly he fits back in remains to be seen.

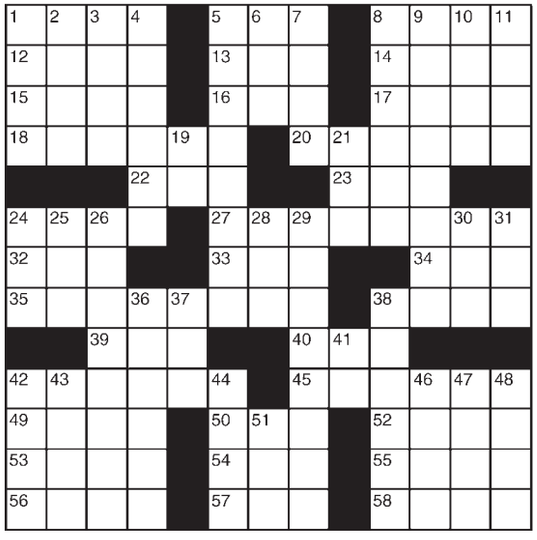
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

"Without his heart having a muscular beat ... In effect, he was dead in that time."

Bolton team doctor Jonathan Tobin on the 78-minute period when Fabrice Muamba's heart stopped beating.

Crossword



Across

1 Sleeping
5 "Avatar" technology (Abbr.)
8 Reverberate
12 Georgia city
13 Young fellow
14 Thick chunk
15 Poetic foot
16 Work with
17 Remedy
18 Wood nymphs
20 Meager
22 Deterioration
23 Annoy
24 Harbor structure
27 "The Defiant Ones" duo
32 Web address
33 Prot. or Cath.
34 Genetic letters
35 Breach in a levee
38 "Hey, you!"
39 Have a bug
40 Way back when
42 "Lord Jim" author
45 Soft fabric
49 Neighborhood
50 Haven't paid yet
52 Early primary state
53 Dave of "Mad" magazine
54 Rowing need
55 Dance lesson
56 Not good, not bad
57 "— Doubtfire"
58 Dame Myra at the piano

Down

1 Desertlike
2 Wild hog
3 TV trophy
4 Come ashore
5 Groups of grapes
6 Petrol
7 Mid-month date
8 Steep slope
9 Some old cars
10 Rodgers collaborator
11 Follow instructions
19 "— as I say ..."
21 Spy novel org.
24 French nobleman
25 Hockey great Bobby
26 Laundromat alternative
28 French possessive
29 Butchers' tools
30 Type measures
31 Perched
36 Shrew
37 — carte
38 Shine
41 "We Bring Good Things to Life" co.
42 Urban fleet
43 Sandwich cookie
44 Armageddon
46 November responsibility
47 Rams fans?
48 Spigots
51 Doves' aversion

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

P	A	R	T		L	A	B		M	E	S	A
A	S	E	A		E	G	O		I	V	A	N
S	A	N	C	T	I	O	N		L	I	L	T
S	P	O	K	E			D	A	N	C	E	S
			L	A	C	E		G	E	T		
A	N	T	E		A	L	O	E		I	D	O
C	U	R		K	N	E	A	D		O	U	R
E	T	A		I	T	C	H		K	N	E	E
		C	A	W		T	U	N	E			
L	A	T	V	I	A			B	A	L	S	A
A	R	I	A		J	U	N	C	T	I	O	N
P	E	O	N		A	R	E		O	M	A	N
P	A	N	T		X	I	V		N	O	P	E

Sudoku

3				4				8
	7			8			9	
9			5		6			3
2		7				1		5
		5	2		7	3		
4		1				9		2
7			6		4			9
	2			5			3	
8				3				6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

1	6	3	4	7	9	8	5	2
4	5	8	3	2	6	1	9	7
2	7	9	5	1	8	6	3	4
7	1	4	2	6	3	9	8	5
6	9	2	8	5	7	3	4	1
8	3	5	1	9	4	7	2	6
3	2	7	6	8	5	4	1	9
9	8	1	7	4	2	5	6	3
5	4	6	9	3	1	2	7	8

Send a kiss

- **Baby.** I love you with all my heart. From the beginning of art class listening to Guns and Roses to four years later in the beginging of our adult lives. I can never imagine my life with out you. Im sorry for the few months of distance I shown you, but know I know more than ever I love you. Just as we always said Forever and Always. I Love You Baby From Doll Face :)
- **Barb.** Since you have come into my life I have been so happy. You have given me so much joy. Time spent with you is never boring, we laugh and carry on, we enjoy the same things, thank you for rescuing me. I hope to spend the rest of my days with you. From the blues man
- **Fever.** Are you saying i've got a fever for you, you are not nice to me? or that's really you have a fever? I do not know. from me?
- **My Miss.** Im so happy my dove didnt fly away till tommorrow I love you<3 From <3
- **Everyone.** So many love stories, so many parallel stories. Makes me wonder. From Goodluck

Today 9°/4° Sunny
Thursday 7°/4° Showers 60%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. This is a special time for you and today's new moon will make it more special still.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Today you will be asking yourself why you said certain things or made certain decisions. Even if you won't find the answer, it's OK as long as you're thinking.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. This is an important day for your ideas and your beliefs and the way that you interact with the world.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Today's new moon will give your personality added confidence and fizz. You are sure to make some kind of breakthrough.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Not everyone will approve of what you are planning to do but that just makes it even more attractive.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Today's new moon will inspire you to start something new but the only way you'll find time for it is if you let go of something old.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Even if you make it clear that you are not remotely interested in someone else's opinions they will still make sure you hear all about it.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. It is of the utmost importance that you take time out of your busy schedule to reassure loved ones.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Very soon you'll have to knuckle down to some work, but for now it's all about fun.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Make sure loved ones know what you think and how you feel. Make sure you know their views.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Travel and social plans may be disrupted today but that's okay because you will gain more than you lose. Take it as it comes.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. This is the ideal time to confront certain feelings that you have been trying hard to deny.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"I don't think the anti-aging cream is working!"
Nancy

CHARLES DHARAPAK/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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14kt white gold with 55 diamonds (2.75 cttw) tennis bracelet

Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,560.00

J&M Sale Price $1.644.00

10kt classic hand-carved cameo brooch

Appraisal value: $1,500.00
J&M Regular Price $749.00

J&M Sale Price $487.00

14kt yellow gold dangling earrings set with cubic zircons, 3.36 grams

J&M Regular Price $139.00

J&M Sale Price $90.00

18kt curb link chain with 1.00 carat round brilliant cut diamond

Appraisal value: $12,800.00
J&M Regular Price $7,279.00

J&M Sale Price $4,731.00

18kt white gold pendant with 61 diamonds (0.89 cttw)

Appraisal value: $2,100.00
J&M Regular Price $795.00

J&M Sale Price $517.00

18kt white gold bracelet, polished finishing, chess-style diamond cut pattern links, 18.21 grams

J&M Regular Price $1,490.00

J&M Sale Price $968.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)

Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00

J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

10kt yellow gold 'wave'-style hoop earrings, 1.76 grams

J&M Regular Price $85.00

J&M Sale Price $55.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds

Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00

J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams

J&M Regular Price $473.00

J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt white gold band, 3.8 grams

J&M Regular Price $311.00

J&M Sale Price $250.00

One of the largest selections of rings, earrings, chains and other jewellery, all at every day low prices, with 20% additional savings for a compounded saving!

14kt yellow gold mens' solid curb link 22" necklace, 23.71 grams

J&M Regular Price $1,534.00

J&M Sale Price $1,227.00

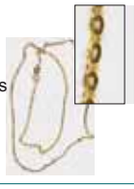
.950 platinum band, 4.69 grams

J&M Regular Price $565.00

J&M Sale Price $365.00

Dare to compare!

We checked out the competition at mall stores and our every day prices are *still* better than their sale prices!



1.36 gram chain purchased on sale December 30, 2011, for $125.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day was $60.93

You would have saved $64.07

1.26 gram chain purchased on sale January 4, 2012, for $128.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day $79.13

You would have saved $48.87

J&M Price Comparison

10kt yellow gold Singapore link 18" chain, 0.98 grams

J&M Regular Price $48.00

J&M Sale Price $37.80

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